

THE RURAL DISTRICT
OF SAFFRON WALDEN

in the
Administrative County of Essex



THE

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1958

Irene M. Conway Hastilow,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;

Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;

School Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

A. Armes, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector,
Saffron Walden Rural District Council.





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PREFACE

Public Health Department,
69 High Street,
Saffron Walden, Essex.
Tel. Saffron Walden 2194

To the Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth Annual Report on the health of Saffron Walden Rural District.

The estimated mid-year population fell from 18,550 in 1957 to 17,880 in 1958.

There were 278 live births and 7 still births in 1958 compared with 286 live births and 3 still births in 1957.

The live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 15.5. Multiplied by the comparability factor of 1.12 supplied by the Registrar General this gives a figure of 17.4 compared with 16.4 which is the average for England and Wales.

The number of deaths in 1958 was 1213 giving a Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of 11.9. Multiplying the Death Rate by the comparability factor of 0.88 gives the figure of 10.5 compared with the average for England and Wales of 11.7. In 1957 there were 181 deaths and a Death Rate of 9.8. Only 4 children under 1 year died in 1958 compared with 6 in 1957. All these 4 children were under four weeks of age.

On the whole 1958 was a healthy year, there were no cases of diphtheria and again only 1 case of poliomyelitis (paralytic). Mild outbreaks of vomiting, sometimes accompanied by diarrhoea, occurred from time to time. In two villages the infection attacked a large percentage of the population, but careful investigation failed to reveal any bacterial cause and it would appear that these outbreaks are of viral origin. Fortunately the illness was a mild one and usually only lasted from a few hours to one to two days.

The patient who contracted paralytic poliomyelitis was an adult who has now made a partial recovery. The source of infection was not found and probably came from another area. The scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis was extended during the year and the response was good in the younger age groups.

The care of the aged continued to present many problems. Home helps were often not obtainable and increasing difficulty was encountered during the year in obtaining hospital beds for old people. The provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the aged sick is one of the most pressing needs in this area. One particularly distressing case was

that of an old lady who collapsed after being a recluse for many years and who had to be nursed by the District Nurse and neighbours in the greatest filth and squalor for several days because no hospital bed could be obtained for her.

The greatest fidelity is shown by the Essex County Council District Nurses in caring for the old people in their villages, and these nurses' work is deserving of the highest praise, but the scarcity of hospital beds is a cause of much anxiety to everyone concerned with the care of old people in this District.

An instance of what can be done by concerted effort was shown when another elderly lady who had been living as a recluse was admitted to hospital with a minor illness. The Health Visitor (who had befriended the lady for years), asked the Area Medical Officer for permission to make an attempt to render the house habitable before the patient returned to it. The hospital co-operated by allowing the patient to remain there after her recovery and, with the full support of the Area Medical Officer's staff (Superintendent Health Visitor, Home Help Organiser, and District Nurse all helped enthusiastically), plus assistance from the Public Health Inspector's Department and the very kind help of voluntary workers, the filth and rubbish that had been accumulating for very many years was carted away and willing helpers cleaned through the whole house. The lady returned to a clean house, and a willing home help continues to maintain it in this condition and sees also that nourishing meals are prepared. The lady has been rehabilitated and is now leading a normal life.

I wish to thank the members of the Council, and particularly the Health Committee, for the encouragement given me during the year and the officials for their help and assistance. My particular thanks are due once more to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr Armes, and his Staff and to my Secretary, Miss A. M. Lamb. The Essex County Council Welfare Foods/Clinic Clerks, Mrs Sharp and Mrs Whiffen, rendered most loyal assistance during the year and I was deeply appreciative of their help.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1959.

**SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as on 31st December, 1958)

Chairman: D. G. Gold, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Mrs J. M. Leonard

Mrs E. R. Anderson
Miss M. Baker
J. D. Barnard, Esq.
S. S. Barnard, Esq.
J. H. W. Burleigh, Esq.
Col. J. Bury
Brig. T. F. J. Collins
W. Davey, Esq.
C. J. Dimond, Esq.
A. Edge, Esq.
B. E. Erith, Esq.
D. J. Evans, Esq.
Mrs H. B. Forman
Mrs E. F. Fraser
A. G. George, Esq.
B. Goodwin, Esq.
W. G. Hardy, Esq.
W. Harvey, Esq.
R. C. Heath, Esq.
A. P. Holtom, Esq.
W. H. Jones, Esq.

W. L. Kent, Esq.
A. D. King, Esq.
W. E. Mayhew, Esq.
D. J. Moulden, Esq.
Mrs J. M. D. Muir
G. T. Nunn, Esq., J.P.
G. B. Parker, Esq.
J. Pimblett, Esq.
J. S. Plumb, Esq.
S. J. Rowland, Esq.
R. W. Smith, Esq.
O. W. Snow, Esq.
Vice-Admiral Sir G. O.
Stephenson
Col. W. A. Stewart
W. A. Swan, Esq.
D. A. W. Thesiger, Esq.
W. G. C. Tomalin, Esq.
A. W. S. Toner, Esq.
P. Wiseman, Esq.
C. Wright, Esq.

Public Health Staff of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

Secretary

Miss A. M. Lamb, Senior Commercial Certificate of London
Chamber of Commerce.

Chief Public Health Inspector

A. Armes, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., Meat and Food Inspector's
Certificate.

Additional Public Health Inspector

G. E. Hawthorn, M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Inspector

N. L. Good.

Technical Assistant

R. Skoyles.

Secretary

Miss B. J. Bishop.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area: 78,585 acres.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate mid-year, 1958): 17,880.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958) according to Rate Books:
6,105

Rateable value (as at 31/12/58): £160,068.

Product of Penny Rate: £660.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live births	...	...	...	...	278
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	15.5
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor of 1.12	...	...	...	...	17.4
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	16.4
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	0.4
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still birth	...	...	...	...	24.6
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	285
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	4
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	...	...	...	...	14.4
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate	...	...	...	...	11.5
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate	...	...	...	...	58.8
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	...	...	...	...	14.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	6.1
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	NIL
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	...	11.9
Deaths from all causes	...	...	...	...	213
Death rate corrected by comparability factor of 0.88	...	...	...	...	10.5
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.7

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

Cause of Death:	1958		1957	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0	0
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0	1	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	1	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections	0	0	1	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	1	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	5	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	2	1	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4	—	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	7	12	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	0	0
16. Diabetes	1	0	0	1

17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	11	8	9
18. Coronary disease, angina	19	15	18	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	4	2	1
20. Other heart disease	14	19	12	7
21. Other circulatory disease	6	7	5	7
22. Influenza	1	2	1	3
23. Pneumonia	6	4	5	5
24. Bronchitis	4	3	4	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	3	1	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	0	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	0	1
28. Nephritis and ncphrosis	1	0	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0	—	0
31. Congenital malformations	2	0	0	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	12	9	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	3	0
34. All other accidents	1	2	5	3
35. Suicide	1	0	0	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	0

Diphtheria: No cases of diphtheria occurred during the year.

Food Poisoning: No cases of food poisoning occurred during the year.

Poliomyelitis: One case of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred during the year. No cases of non-paralytic poliomyelitis were notified.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis)

	1958	1957
Whooping Cough	26	63
Scarlet Fever	12	9
Erysipelas	6	1
Pneumonia	14	18
Measles	200	277
Infective Hepatitis	1	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Food poisoning	0	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1
(Non-Paralytic)	0	0
Sonné Dysentery	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	0	1
Virus Encephalitis	1	0

TUBERCULOSIS

Notification: Seven cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1958—6 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary and 2 cases moved into District. In 1957 eight cases of tuberculosis were notified—7 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary.

Deaths: No deaths occurred from tuberculosis during 1958. One death occurred in 1957.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Service—Bacteriological Service. The District is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities—A day and night ambulance service is provided by Essex County Council. The Ambulance Station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons requiring an ambulance in an emergency are advised to dial '999' and ask for an ambulance. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor, or nurse, or other competent person, such as a duly authorised officer in the Mental Health Service.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery: These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the area.

Domiciliary Help Service: Application for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Area, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers: An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 69 High Sreet, Saffron Walden.

A Women's Welfare Clinic is conducted in conjunction with the above. This is not a Family Planning Clinic and advice and treatment are only given in those cases where pregnancy would be definitely detrimental to health.

Care of Children up to School Age: Child Welfare Sessions were held at Newport, Debden, Ashdon and Stansted as well as at Saffron Walden. Children are immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough on request. Vaccinations against smallpox are not carried out at the Clinics as a routine, but are performed by the family doctor. The scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis was further developed during the year.

Care of School Children: Regular Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children are immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis with the consent of the parents.

Dental Service: Treatment is given at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden, and inspections and treatment carried out in the schools.

Hospitals: The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the population of the Saffron Walden Rural District are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of Saffron Walden Rural District. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital, one at Castle Hill, Cambridge, and one at the Herts. and Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts. and Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1947

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951

It was not necessary to take statutory action under these Acts in 1958.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA HOUSING

The Council completed the construction of 18 houses during the year whilst the number erected by private enterprise totalled 93.

WATER

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor (Mr J. S. Y. Monlineux) who is responsible for the maintenance of main water supplies, for the following report:—

Water Supplies:

As far as water supplies are concerned, I am pleased to say that the quantity and quality of water are still satisfactory, the total consumption for the year amounting to 255 million gallons, a decrease of 22 million gallons over the previous year. Complaints are still being received regarding lack of pressure at times at Langley Upper Green and parts of Farnham and Manuden.

Sewerage:

Progress is being made with the preparation of the schemes for sewerage at Manuden and Ashdon and for new Disposal Works at Stansted and Quendon, and it is hoped that work will commence on all these during the next twelve months.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

(in parts per million)

TEST FOR	SOURCE						
	Hempstead Works	Wenden Works	Henham Works	Newport Works	Linton Works	Stansted Works	Rochfords Works
Appearance	Bright	Bright	Faint	Bright	Bright	Bright	Bright
Colour	Nil	Nil	Opalescence	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Turbidity	Less than 3	Less than 3	4	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.0	7.0
Free CO ₂	30	30	50	30	22	47	50
Elect. Conductivity	520	540	540	530	500	570	610
Total Solids	370	385	360	370	335	380	410
Cl. as Chloride	17	14	16	14	17	20	22
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	260	250	265	255	230	260	280
Hardness (Total)	310	305	310	305	280	315	335
Hardness (Carbonate)	260	250	265	255	230	260	280
Hardness (Non-Carbonate)	50	55	45	50	50	55	55
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.3	6.2	0.0	6.1	8.4	6.7	6.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.012	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.15
Residual Chlorine	Absent	Absent	—	Absent	Absent	—	—
Metals	Absent	Absent	Iron: 0.36 other metals absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent

Bacteriological Examinations: All supplies were sampled regularly for bacteriological examination and where reports proved unsatisfactory immediate action was taken.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1958

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the following pages I present my thirteenth Annual Report dealing with the work of the Department during the year ending 31st December, 1958.

The various tables and the brief notes included in the report are an indication of the various aspects of public health work, the performance of which safeguards the citizen as respects his housing, food and water supplies and freedom from infection.

Owners have continued to take advantage of the grants available for the improvement of their properties and the pleasure expressed by tenants and owner/occupiers in being provided with modern amenities and improved conditions has justified the emphasis which has been placed on this work by the public health staff. When the results achieved are added to the improvements effected by other action under the Housing Acts it will be seen that substantial progress has been made in raising the housing standard throughout the District.

Whilst the provision of main drainage, with its heavy cost to the ratepayer, must necessarily proceed at a slower pace, there is every likelihood that at least two large villages will see the commencement of their schemes during the next few months.

The Council must again be in the lead in agreeing to provide a special collection service for large articles not normally removed during refuse collection and the public now have no excuse for littering the countryside with this debris.

The complete review of housing needs carried out by the Special Sub-Committee has undoubtedly helped to frame more clearly the future policy to be followed in the provision of new housing.

The help and support given by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and all members of the Council is deeply appreciated as is the continued co-operation received from other Chief Officers. My thanks are due to all members of my staff and in particular to Mr G. Hawthorn and Miss B. Bishop who never fail in their efficiency and loyalty despite the many pressing demands on their services.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. ARMES.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1958

The following table indicates the classification of the 3,328 visits and inspections carried out during the year by the members of the staff and the pages which follow contain comment on the various sections of the work.

Housing :

Inspections in connection with Slum Clearance, Repairs, over-crowding, Improvement Grants, etc.	404
Inspections regarding Rent Act 1957	16
Dwelling houses inspected in detail in connection with Slum Clearance and Improvement Grants	88
Investigations and re-inspections regarding Council house applications	677
Inspections of Council houses regarding cleanliness, management, lodgers, etc.	154

Public Health :

Inspections and revisits regarding Public Health Nuisances	135
Inspections regarding proposed new drainage	229
Inspections and revisits regarding defective drainage	252
Inspections and revisits in connection with Moveable Dwellings ...	81
Visits regarding Infectious Diseases	132
Visits in connection with Refuse and Night Soil Collection	239
Inspections regarding Water Supplies (other than main supplies)	23
Number of Water Samples collected from main supplies	236

Food Premises and Food Inspection :

Visits to Slaughterhouses regarding Meat Inspection	160
Inspections of Food Shops, Restaurants, Canteens, Licensed Premises, etc.	92
Visits to Ice Cream Premises	225
Inspections of Dairy Premises	19

General :

Inspections of Factories	32
Visits in connection with Rodent Control (not including Operator's Visits)	28
Miscellaneous Visits	106

HOUSING

(a) Construction of New Dwellings:

During 1958 progress made in the erection of Council houses and private dwelling houses was as follows:—

Number of Council houses completed	18
Number of Council houses under construction at 31.12.58 ...	4
Number of private houses erected	93
Number of private houses under construction at 31.12.58	40

(b) Housing Programme :

During the year the Council appointed a Sub-Committee to review the Housing Needs of the Rural District from all aspects. For the guidance of this Committee the Department prepared a report indicating, for each Parish, the position regarding applications, priority cases, under-occupied Council houses, applicants suitable for bungalow accommodation etc., and a summary of this Report is given below:—

Total number of housing applicants	400
--	-----

Priority Cases :

Overcrowded or with "bedroom deficiency"	14
Applicants (with children) sharing homes	19
Applicants (without children) sharing homes	22
Applicants living in sub-standard houses	22

Total number of priority cases	77
--------------------------------------	----

Number of under-occupied three bedroom type Council houses (Occupants suitable for bungalow accommodation)	107
--	-----

Number of Existing Council dwellings :

Three-bedroom type houses	697
Two-bedroom type houses	130
Bungalows	127

Total	954
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The Sub-Committee also took into consideration the estimated number of Council dwellings likely to become vacant during the following twelve months and among the matters included in their Report to the Council was a recommendation that the "First Phase" Programme should consist of 38 bungalows and 10 houses.

(c) Selection of Tenants :

The system of investigating the housing circumstances of each applicant continued and before each Tenancy Committee Meeting these particulars are checked to ensure that up-to-date information is to hand before tenants are selected.

8 new dwellings were let, 30 existing dwellings re-let and 14 transfers arranged, the table below indicating the grounds on which tenants were selected:—

Families overcrowded	2
Families with bedroom deficiency	4
Families sharing homes	8
Bad housing conditions (disrepair, etc.)	9
Applicants with strong medical support	4
Eviction Orders or Formal Notices to Quit	3
Families separated owing to change of employment	8
Transfers	14

115 applications for houses were withdrawn during the year for the following reasons:—

Purchased own house	10
Removed from District	34
Found other accommodation	22
Deceased	3
Refused offer of Council house tenancy	4
Failed to reply to Circular regarding continuance of application	40
Miscellaneous	2

(d) Council House Management :

There are now 84 tenants housing lodgers and paying the additional charge of 5/- weekly (with certain exceptions). Each application is fully investigated before approval is recommended.

A number of visits were paid to tenants known to be unsatisfactory as regards cleanliness etc., and it was necessary to issue 3 written warnings during the year.

(e) Overcrowding:

The following table indicates the position regarding cases of overcrowding and "borderline" cases:—

SUMMARY OF OVERCROWDING AND ABATEMENT

	"Borderline" (Permitted No. =Number of persons)	Houses where No. of "persons" exceeded the permitted number by:—								Totals	
		$\frac{1}{2}$ person	1 person	2 persons	$2\frac{1}{2}$ persons	3 persons	$3\frac{1}{2}$ persons	4 persons	$4\frac{1}{2}$ persons	Borderline	Overcrowded
Cases on Register at 31.12.57	3	1	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	7
Ascertained during 1958	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4
Cases abated during 1958 by removal to Council Houses	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Cases otherwise abated during 1958	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Number of cases on Register at 31.12.58	1	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6

(f) Action taken under the Housing Act, 1957:

All dwelling houses deemed, after inspection, to require action regarding repair, demolition, etc., are referred to the Housing Sub-Standard Properties Committee which recommends appropriate action under the Housing Act.

Action taken during the year is set out in the tabular statement given below:—

Number of houses inspected for housing defects	106
Number of Informal Repair Notices served	17
Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	11
Number of Statutory Repair Notices served (Section 9)	3
Number of houses rendered fit by owners after service of Statutory Notices	1
Number of Demolition Orders made	1
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
Number of Demolition Orders revoked (Housing Act, 1954)	4
Number of houses demolished in consequence of Clearance Orders	—
Number of houses voluntarily demolished by owners following informal action	—
Number of Undertakings accepted from owners (Section 16, Housing Act, 1957)	8
Number of dwellings rendered fit after acceptance of Undertakings	5
Houses in existing Clearance Areas regarded as demolished and reconstructed	5

(Note:—The above figures do not include properties improved with the aid of Improvement Grants).

The terms of reference of the Housing Sub-Standard Properties Committee have been extended to include all dwellings found to require formal action during the survey of the district by the department. Little progress has however been possible in this connection since the departure of the second assistant public health inspector.

(g) Housing Acts—Slum Clearance Programme :

The Council's proposals submitted to the Minister in August, 1955, envisaged the following programme to be carried out within ten years:—

(i) Estimated number of unfit dwellings requiring action under Section 11 or Section 25 Housing Act, 1936	264
(ii) Number of houses included in operative Clearance Orders	33
Total number of houses to be dealt with in ten year period	297

The progress already made up to 31st December, 1958, is indicated below:—

(iii)	Houses included in Demolition Orders and Closing Orders	31
(iv)	Undertakings accepted from owners	78
(v)	Houses voluntarily demolished by owners following action under the Housing Acts	10
(vi)	Houses in existing Clearance Areas demolished	4
(vii)	Houses in existing Clearance Areas regarded as demolished and reconstructed	20
Total number of properties dealt with up to 31st December, 1958		143

(h) Improvement Grants :

A continual stream of enquiries from owners continues regarding the possibility of obtaining Grants under the Housing Act. 67 dwellings were surveyed and schedules of works required were forwarded to the property owners.

In each case the maximum Grant, based on “approved expenditure” was given and progress made during 1958 was as follows:—

Number of Grants approved by the Council during 1958	33
Total “Approved Expenses” incurred by owners in approved schemes	£23,838
Total sum of Grants approved during 1958	£10,076
Number of schemes completed during 1958	34

The following table shows the total progress made in this scheme from the date of its commencement in 1950 up to 31st December, 1958:

Number of applications received for Grants	236
Number of Grants approved	227
Total “Approved Expenses” incurred by owners in approved schemes	£136,899
Total sum of Grants approved	£61,133
Number of schemes completed	176
Total sum of Grants paid	£45,908

It is interesting to note that, of the 227 dwellings for which Grants were approved, 73 were owner-occupied and 154 occupied by tenants.

(i) Rent Act, 1957 :

The following particulars indicate action taken since this Act came into operation:—

Number of applications for certificates	10
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	2
Number of decisions to issue certificates:	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	6
(b) in respect of all defects	2

Number of undertakings given by landlords	3
Number of undertakings refused by the Council	—
Number of certificates issued	5
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates	1
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	—
Decisions by Council to cancel in spite of objection	—
Certificates cancelled by Council	1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

All applications for Development Permission to use land for moveable dwellings under the Town and Country Planning Acts are investigated so that conditions to be imposed in connection with the issue of licences under the Public Health Act can be ascertained.

Practically all such applications were in respect of modern trailer caravans to be used as temporary housing accommodation for mobile workers, agricultural workers, or by those proposing to erect permanent dwellings on the site.

There are now fifteen licences in force in respect of moveable dwellings, and two licences applicable to sites permitting stationing of tents, vans and sheds thereon during the summer months only.

WATER SUPPLIES

Samples of water are collected at approximately fortnightly intervals from the headworks and from various premises on the lines of supply. Bacteriological examinations were carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge with the following results:—

Supply	No. of samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination	Number complying with standard	Number found not to comply with standard
Rochfords, Birchanger—(5 cotts.)	30	20	10
Stansted Water Co.	45	38	7
Southern Area (Henham Works)	50	44	6
Central Area (Newport Works)	32	30	2
Western Area (Wenden Works)	29	29	—
Eastern Area (Hempstead Works)	39	39	—
Hadstock (South Cambs. R.D.C.)	11	11	—
Totals	236	211	25

None of the samples failing to comply with the standard showed any appreciable bacterial count; in all such cases the Engineer and Surveyor is notified and re-sampling carried out immediately. All the public supplies are chlorinated.

All the supplies were sampled during the year for full chemical examination; the laboratory reports on these showed that all the waters were highly satisfactory.

Six private well supplies were sampled during the year but only one of these proved unsatisfactory.

The proposed main extension along North Hall Road, Ugley was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and it was agreed to invite tenders for the work.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Some progress was made during the year regarding the provision of main sewerage in various parishes.

An Enquiry was held by the Minister of Housing and Local Government regarding the scheme prepared by the Consulting Engineers, for the Parish of Manuden and public notice of the Council's proposals was given.

The Consulting Engineers scheme for the Parish of Ashdon was received and a report was prepared on the properties to be served and existing conditions at these premises.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave approval to the tender for the proposed sewer and disposal to serve the Council houses at Radwinter.

A scheme is being prepared for sewerage the lower portion of the village of Birchanger.

The Council agreed to the extension of the sewer at Church Hill Corner, Stansted in order to serve the proposed Secondary School.

It was also decided to carry out improvements to the disposal works at Berden and provide sanitary amenities to the pre-war Council houses in the Parish.

The pre-war houses at Chrishall are also to be connected to the existing sewer.

Visits were made to the sites in connection with 206 plans submitted for Building Bye-law approval and recommendations passed to the Plans Committee.

Septic tank drainage installed in accordance with the standard design prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor functions satisfactorily in the majority of cases but householders do not seem to be sufficiently aware of the fact that such systems can only operate if the surrounding soil is capable of absorbing the effluent.

A cesspool emptying service is not operated by the Council but the private contractors engaged by householders for this work appear to give prompt and efficient service.

60 Informal Notices were issued in respect of defective drainage and 41 had been satisfactorily complied with by the end of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Fortnightly refuse collection continued in all parishes, the work being carried out by a private contractor with three approved refuse collection vehicles. Direct labour is used to maintain the four tips leased by the Council.

Owing to difficulties arising at the blocks of flats and maisonettes at Stansted it was agreed to provide a weekly collection for these dwellings.

Fire destroyed the buildings and baling machinery at the main tip but these were replaced by more spacious and permanent structures.

The Litter Act, 1958, came into force in August and the Council decided to provide litter baskets for each parish and empty these receptacles during normal refuse collection.

It was also agreed to institute a special collection service for large articles of refuse which always provide difficulties for the householder. This scheme will undoubtedly play a large part in preventing the dumping of unsightly junk in ditches and hedgerows.

Weekly emptying of pail closets is carried out by a contractor, employed by the Council, in the villages of Great Chesterford and Littlebury and in the unsewered portion of Newport.

For householders in other villages there is a private collection scheme operated by a contractor who charges 1/3d. per collection; 217 householders were making use of this service at the end of the year.

Waste paper, rags and metal are salvaged, the former being baled at two depots and sold under contract to Thames Board Mills Ltd. Some of the restrictions on intake imposed by the Mills were removed during the year but payment for baled newspaper was reduced and limitations were placed on the amount of this material accepted by the Mills.

The income derived from the sale of salvaged material is shown below with the previous year's figures for comparison:—

				1957			1958		
				T. C. Q.			T. C. Q.		
Waste Paper	...	...	...	104	3	2	102	16	1
Rags	...	...	...	1	0	3	1	0	2
Metals	...	...	...	4	17	3		7	0
Total Income	...	...	...	£854	8s.	1d.	£835	6s.	3d.

RODENT CONTROL

A part-time rodent operator is employed by the Council to carry out the work of rat and mice destruction; charges to occupiers of dwelling houses are based on rateable value, the full cost of treating business premises being recovered.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council is responsible for ensuring that agricultural premises are kept free from infestation. Bearing this in mind the Council gave careful consideration to the question of treatment of farms when, in July, 1958, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food decided to cease carrying out rat destruction on farms. It was ascertained, however, that there were sufficient private contractors operating in the area to provide this service to farmers and it was decided not to extend the Council's scheme to include agricultural premises.

Work carried out under the Act during the year ended 31st March, 1959, was as follows:—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (Refuse Tips, etc.)	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other including Business Premises	Total
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections)	17	89	—	2	108
Number of properties found to be infested with rats:—					
(a) Major infestations	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Minor infestations	13	49	—	1	63
Number of properties found to be infested with mice:—					
(a) Major infestations	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Minor infestations	—	5	—	—	5
Total number of properties treated by the Council's Operator	16	58	—	1	75

All the Council's refuse tips were treated at regular intervals.

The Sewers at Newport and Stansted were test-baited but treatment was only found necessary in several lengths of sewer as Stansted.

FACTORIES ACTS

Details of factories registered, inspections made, and action taken are given in the following table.

Three Certificates as to adequate means of escape in case of fire are in operation—none were issued during the year.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	26	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	7	3	—	—
Total	54	32	1	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to out-workers)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	1	—

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

As a result of action taken and advice given, improvements and additions to the lavatory and washing accommodation were carried out at the premises of a large nursery establishment.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND PREMISES

(a) Meat Inspection :

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the District and regular slaughtering necessitated frequent visits in order to maintain 100 per cent meat inspection.

The total number of animals slaughtered was 1,322; 2,091 lbs. of Carcase meat and 655 lbs. offal were condemned as unfit. All such meat is stained before being removed from the premises.

The table which follows gives particulars regarding meat inspection and diseases found.

In accordance with the Ministry Circular the owner of the slaughterhouse was advised as to the standard of premises and equipment envisaged in future legislation. As a result plans were submitted incorporating the necessary stunning pen, hanging hall, condemned meat room etc. Owing to the proximity of the premises to other properties and bearing in mind the absence of main sewerage in the village permission to develop under the Town and Country Planning Acts was refused. The owner appealed against the decision and a Public Enquiry was held in November. The Minister's decision had not been received at the end of the year.

During the labour dispute at the docks in June carcases of chilled beef were flown into Stansted Airport from Amsterdam and this necessitated attendance at the Airport at all hours of the day and night for several days.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	139	—	3	743	437	—
Number inspected	139	—	3	743	437	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34	—	—	22	23	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	24.46	—	—	3.09	5.72	—
Tuberculosis only:—						
Whole carcases condemned	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	—	19	—
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis	6.474	—	—	—	4.34	—
Cysticercosis	—	—	—	—	—	—

(b) Milk :

In January the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food issued the Milk (Special Designations) (Special Areas) Order 1958 which, coming into operation on 14th April, 1958 made it illegal for any person to sell by retail for human consumption milk other than Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

All Registered Dairy Premises are inspected at frequent intervals and samples of milk collected from the dairies or delivery vehicles.

Particulars of premises registered, licences issued and sample results are as follows:—

Number of Registered Dairy Premises	10
Number of Registered Distributors of Milk	10
Dealers Licences issued for Tuberculin Tested Milk	10
Dealers Licences issued for Pasteurised Milk	10
Dealers Licences issued for Sterilised Milk	6

*Supplementary Licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk	6
Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised Milk	6
Supplementary Licences—Sterilised Milk	3

(*Supplementary Licences are issued in respect of sale of milk from premises situated outside the District).

Designation	Samples taken	Number satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	16	16
Pasteurised	17	17
Sterilised	1	1

Sampling for biological examination (for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus) is carried out by the Essex County Council. One sample from a wholesale producer contained tubercle bacilli and steps were immediately taken under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations to ensure that the milk was heat treated before sale.

(c) Ice Cream :

Practically all ice-cream sold in the area is pre-wrapped by the manufacturers.

192 samples were submitted to the Cambridge laboratory for bacteriological examination from the 61 vendors registered under the Essex County Council Act and results are indicated below:—

Samples in Provisional Grade I	188
Samples in Provisional Grade II	4
Samples in Provisional Grade III	—
Samples in Provisional Grade IV	—

(d) Other Foods :

No statutory seizures of unfit food were made; wholesalers and retailers co-operate with the department by reporting food suspected as unsound, and the following were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Canned Ham	171 lbs.
Luncheon Meat	296 lbs.
Corned Beef	128 lbs.
Cheese	65 lbs.
Various Canned Foods	209 lbs.

(e) Food Premises, Cafes, Restaurants, etc.

There are 194 food premises in the District, and types of each are shown below:—

Butchers' Shops	8
General Stores (grocery and provisions)	62
Bakehouses	5
Bakers' and Confectioners' shops	3
Sweet Shops	5
Greengrocers	2
Fishmongers	1
Poultry Dressing Depots	1
Bacon Curing Establishments	1
Wholesale Provision Merchants	1
Cafes and Restaurants	8
Licensed Premises	75
School Kitchens and Central Cooking Depots	5
Schools serving meals	17

Seven of the above are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

No formal notice was necessary under the Food Hygiene Regulations or Clean Food Byelaws but a number of informal notices were issued in respect of absence of washing equipment and the exposure of unwrapped foods. Propaganda issued during the past few years has undoubtedly educated the public in food hygiene and although shoppers may be loathe to point out lapses to food shop assistants or waitresses they are developing an increasing tendency to purchase foodstuffs at premises where both hygienic equipment and practices are in evidence.

Wash-hand basins with cold and hot water supplies were installed at five food shops as the result of informal action.

The sanitary conveniences at a number of licensed premises are still of the primitive variety and it is to be hoped that action will be taken by owners, as early as possible, to remedy this.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The 132 visits made in connection with cases of infectious diseases included the investigation of 10 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 Poliomyelitis, and 1 of Infective Hepatitis. (*Suspec*)

Visits were also paid to 11 contacts of cases of poliomyelitis, and one contact of smallpox arriving from abroad; 17 specimens were submitted to the laboratory for examination.

Terminal disinfection was carried out in 13 cases, and complete disinfection of bedding, arranged after the removal to hospital of 5 cases of tuberculosis.

GENERAL MATTERS

The various matters dealt with under the Public Health Act included the following:—

Nuisances from accumulations of refuse	2
Nuisances from polluted ditches	1
Nuisances from pig keeping	5
Nuisances from flooding	1
Nuisances from manure deposits	3

Action was taken in co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health in connection with 4 aged persons living alone under unsatisfactory conditions, two being removed to suitable hospitals and another being admitted to an alms-house.

Reports on 373 properties were forwarded to the Clerk of the Council in connection with Requisitions for Searches under the Land Charges Act.

A. ARMES.

September, 1959

Chief Public Health Inspector.